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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06
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TAGS: PEPR, PORG, PARM, RQ, MX, US
SUBJ: PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
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1. SUMMARY. PUERTO RICAN PRO-INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE CONCLUDED IN MEXICO, DECEMBER 2, WITH A CALL FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN NEW YORK, AND CONSIDERATION OF "EMERGENCY MEASURES" IN THE EVENT THAT A PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL STATUS PLEBISCITE IS CONVOKED. THE CONFERENCE DISPATCHED A MESSAGE OF THANKS TO FIDEL CASTRO IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NAM AND TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM CALLING FOR GA ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24'S RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 15, 1979. THE CONFERENCE DID NOT CONDEMN VIOLENCE AND STATED THAT PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE WILL BE "CONQUERED THROUGH THE ENSEMBLE OF FORMS OF STRUGGLE THAT ITS PEOPLES AND ORGANIZATIONS DETERMINE." MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND RULING
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PRI PARTY INVOLVEMENT, IF PRESENT, REMAINED HIDDEN. THE CONFERENCE CONCLUDED WITH A DECLARATION -- NOT SUBSCRIBED TO BY EUROCOMMUNIST DELEGATES AND THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY -- DENOUNCING DEPLOYMENT OF U.S. CRUISE MISSILES AND PERSHING II MISSILES IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.
2. SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE TOOK PLACE NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2 IN MEXICO CITY WITH REPRESENTATION OF A REPORTED 400-700 DELEGATES (A FIGURE WE BELIEVE TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY EXAGGERATED) MAINLY FROM RADICAL AND COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS, OF SOME 60 COUNTRIES. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A MESSAGE TO KURT WALDHEIM AND FIDEL CASTRO, A FINAL DECLARATION, AND A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING U.S. NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION IN EUROPE.

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3. MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM: THE CONFERENCE RECALLED THE COMMITTTE OF 24'S RESOLUTION OF 1978 CALLING FOR "COMPLETE TRANSFER OF POWERS TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO" -- A RESOLUTION WHICH THE CONFERENCE FALSELY CLAIMED WAS ENDORSED BY THE UNGA. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THE CONFERENCE WAS SEEKING TO PORTRAY APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24'S REPORT AS ENDORSEMENT OF THE PR RESOLUTION.) THE CONFERENCE ASKED THAT THE UNGA ENDORSE THE COMMITTEE OF 24'S AUGUST 15, 1979 RESOLUTION (WHICH REAFFIRMS THE 1978 POSITION) AND "CONTINUE ASSUMING FULL JURISDICTION OVER THE COLONIAL CASE OF PUERTO RICO."

4. MESSAGE TO CASTRO: THE CONFERENCE THANKED FIDEL CASTRO, IN HIS CAPACITY AS NAM CHAIRMAN, FOR NAM SUMMIT SUPPORT OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE. THE CONFERENCE ALSO CONGRATULATED CASTRO FOR HIS "BRILLIANT AND HISTORIC" UNGA SPEECH AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE NAM, "UNDER YOUR

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DIRECTION, WILL CONTINUE GIVING ITS UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT" TO THE PR INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE.

5. FINAL DECLARATION: THE CONFERENCE FINAL DECLARATION NOTES THE CHANGE IN THE "CORRELATION OF FORCES" IN THE WORLD AND THIS HEMISPHERE (REPRESENTED BY THE CUBAN, NICARAGUAN, AND GRENADAN REVOLUTIONS AND THE "INDEPENDENT POLICIES" OF JAMAICA, GUYANA, AND PANAMA). IT STATES THAT THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO "DECEIVE" THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THROUGH TALK OF PUERTO RICAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND IS IDEOLOGICALLY SUBVERTING, ECONOMICALLY COLONIZING, SOCIALLY DEGRADING, AND GENERALLY REPRESSING THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. A MAJOR THEME IS THAT U.S. REPRESSION IS INCREASING AS THE U.S. REAFFIRMS THE STRATEGIC CHARACTER OF PUERTO RICAN MILITARY BASES. (COMMENT: THE CONFERENCE SEEKS TO LINK U.S. POLICY WITHIN PUERTO RICO TO THE U.S. MILITARY RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET BRIGADE IN CUBA ISSUE.)

6. THE DECLARATION, AFTER SALUTING THE RELEASE AND PRESENCE OF LOLITA LEBRON AND COLLEAGUES ("A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY AGAINST U.S. OCCUPATION POLICY"), WARNS AGAINST U.S. ANNEXATIONIST EFFORTS AND SAYS THAT THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAVE "HISTORIC JUSTIFICATION AND MORAL AUTHORITY TO USE ALL MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL AND ALL FORMS OF STRUGGLE" TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE. (COMMENT: THIS FORMULATION, AND THAT MENTIONED IN THE SUMMARY, ARE PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO ENCOMPASS VIOLENCE AT LEAST IMPLICITLY. LOLITA LEBRON IS QUOTED IN THE MEXICAN PRESS, DECEMBER 5, AFTER THE NAVY BUS ATTACK, AS SAYING THAT SHE WOULD PREFER THAT VIOLENCE NOT OCCUR, BUT "NEITHER CAN I SAY TO MY PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT FIGHT.")

7. THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR AN END TO U.S. "JURIDICAL-POLITICAL" CONTROL AND "MILITARY OCCUPATION" OF PUERTO RICO AND, ECHOING THE COMMITTEE OF 24, STATES THAT ANY

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PLEBISCITE MUST BE PRECEDED BY A "COMPLETE TRANSFER OF
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POWERS TO THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE." AFTER DENOUNCING THE
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ALLEGED MASS STERILIZATION OF ONE-THIRD OF PUERTO RICAN
WOMEN, THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR AN ACTION PROGRAM AS
FOLLOWS:
-- ORGANIZATIONAL WORK WILL BEGIN TO FORM AN INTERNATIONAL
SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE BY
FEBRUARY 1980.
-- AN INTERNATIONAL PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE INFORMATION
OFFICE WILL BE OPENED IN NEW YORK.
-- EFFORTS WILL BE INCREASED TO SEEK THE LIBERATION OF
ELEVEN PUERTO RICAN "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN U.S. JAILS.
-- "EMERGENCY MEASURES" WILL BE CONSIDERED, INCLUDING
SPECIAL MEETINGS, IF THE U.S. TRIES TO EXECUTE A "FALSE"
PLEBISCITE "TO ANNEX PUERTO RICO AS A STATE."
-- A CALL WILL BE MADE ON ALL WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WHO
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PARTICIPATE IN LANDING AND BOMBING EXERCISES ON VIEQUES
ISLAND (PR) TO CEASE DOING SO.
-- NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICAN
INDEPENDENCE WILL BE ESTABLISHED, AND THE WEEK PRE-
CEDING SEPTEMBER 23 WILL BE DESIGNATED AS SPECIAL PUERTO
RICAN INDEPENDENCE DAYS.
8. U.S. NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION: THE CONFERENCE ALSO
APPROVED A DECLARATION -- OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF EURO-
COMMUNIST DELEGATES FROM SPAIN, ITALY, FRANCE, AND
BELGIUM AS WELL AS THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY -- CONDEMN-
ING U.S. PLANS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF PERSHING II AND CRUISE
MISSILES IN EUROPE AND CALLING FOR NATO COUNCIL SUPPORT
FOR BREZHNEV'S CALL FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS TO "REDUCE
AND EVENTUALLY ELIMINATE MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE."
THE DECLARATION SOMEWHAT TORTUROUSLY TIES EUROPEAN MISSILE
DEPLOYMENTS TO INCREASED U.S. AND NATO MILITARY ACTIVITY
IN THE CARIBBEAN AND PUERTO RICO. (FYI: THE DECLARATION
REFERS TO ROOSEVELT ROADS NAVAL BASE IN PUERTO RICO AS A
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"NUCLEAR BASE." THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS REPORTEDLY WILL SEEK TO RAISE THIS ISSUE AS AN ALLEGED U.S. VIOLATION OF PROTOCOL I OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO.)

9. MEXICAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT: WITH EXCEPTION OF A NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT THANKING "MEXICO," THE CONFERENCE DID NOT PUBLICLY THANK THE GOM OR THE RULING PRI PARTY FOR ANY ASSISTANCE TO THE CONFERENCE. NO GOM OR PROMINENT PRI FIGURES PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE AND A PLANNED VISIT BY LOLITA LEBRON AND COMPANY TO THE MEXICAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APPARENTLY WAS CALLED OFF. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WERE CALLED BY ANTONIO CARILLO FLORES, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER'S FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHO ASKED US FOR

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INFORMATION TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT (E.G. SUBSTANCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S 1978 STATEMENT, PERCENTAGE OF VOTES RECEIVED BY INDEPENDISTAS IN LAST PLEBISCITE, ETC.) IN CASE THE GROUP WERE TO VISIT THE CONGRESS. THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL PRI SUPPORT FOR THE MEETING AND ANY GOM SUPPORT REMAINED HIGHLY CONCEALED. THE CONFERENCE WAS REPORTED IN THE GOVERNMENT-INFLUENCED MEDIA, BUT COVERAGE APPEARED TO BE NEITHER ENCOURAGED NOR SUPPRESSED.

10. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED, THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE PRODUCED NOTHING GOOD FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. IT APPEARS THAT THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS' MAJOR AIM IS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO HEIGHTEN AGITATION FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE AND TO PUSH FOR UNGA SEIZURE OF THE PR ISSUE WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY GO BEYOND SIMPLE ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 REPORT. HOW SUCCESSFUL THEIR EFFORTS WERE, AND WILL BE, REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THE CONFERENCE'S STRESS ON THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN PUERTO RICO AND ITS OPEN-ENDED POSTURE ON VIOLENCE WILL NOT DISCOURAGE HOTHEADS SUCH AS THOSE WHO PRECIPITATED THE NAVY BUS ATTACK. HOPEFULLY, HOWEVER, THE COINCIDENCE OF THE BUS ATTACK AND THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE A SOBERING EFFECT ON ANY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS SUPPORTIVE OF COLLABORATION WITH THE PR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. END COMMENT. (DRAFTED BY JON GLASSMAN) FERCH

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